

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 13-21 and 24-26 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 13-22, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2270130 (Goebels) in view of US 6,371,573 (Goebels et al.); claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2270130 in view of US 6,371,573, and further in view of GB 2136521 (Goebels); and claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2270130 in view of US 6,371,573, and further in view of US 6,264,289 (Franke et al.). Applicants traverse the rejections as set forth below.

Claim 13 is amended herein to include the features of claim 23 and further to include the feature of “supplementing an existing anti-skid control operation by a drive-slip control operation.” Support for these amendments is present in paragraph [0044], for example, of Applicants specification, which mentions ABS functionality (i.e., anti-skid control operation) and ASR functions (i.e., drive-slip control operation). Claim 26 is amended in an analogous manner.

Applicants submit that the prior art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 13. In particular, the prior art does not disclose the features of the only one additional solenoid control valve being arranged outside a housing accommodating the remaining valve assembly consisting of the two

relay valves and the assigned solenoid control valves, and being constructed to be connectable to the remaining valve assembly for supplementing an existing anti-skid control operation by a drive-slip control operation. An advantage of the above-mentioned features of claim 13 is that a system originally designed just for an anti-skid control operation (ABS) functionality can be easily supplemented by a drive-slip control operation (ASR) functionality without changing the original pressure regulator module. The prior art fails to teach or suggest such an advantage.

The Office Action acknowledges that GB 2270130 and US 6,371,573 do not disclose the features of claim 23 of the only one additional solenoid control valve is arranged outside a housing accommodating the remaining valve assembly consisting of the two relay valves and the assigned solenoid control valves, and is constructed to be connectable to the remaining valve assembly. *See Office Action page 6.* Instead, the Office Action refers to GB 2136521. However, GB 2136521 does not disclose an additional solenoid control valve that is constructed to be connectable to the remaining valve assembly for supplementing an existing anti-skid control operation by a drive-slip control operation. GB 2136521 is silent regarding this feature of the claim. GB 2270130 and US 6,371,573 also fail to disclose it. Accordingly, none of the cited references disclose all of the features of amended claim 13. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable over the prior art.

Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to have modified GB 2270130, US 6,371,573 and GB 2136521 to include these features of amended claim 13. In particular, the box in Fig. 1 to Fig. 3 of GB 2270130 indicates that all the valves of module 1 are integrated in one housing (see also modules 100 and 100' in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 forming one integrated entity, respectively). Thus, there is not hint for a combination of GB 2270130 with GB 2136521, since such a modification would require a completely different structure. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable for this additional reason.

Claims 14-21, 24 and 25 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 13.

Claim 26 is patentable for reasons analogous to those for claim 13.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

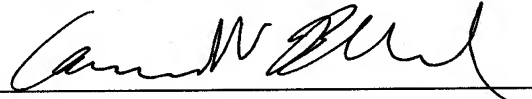
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037068.55856US).

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